

REFORM THAT COUNTS

Changing a Majority at risk to a Majority that expands.

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Our Majority is at Risk.

Democrats are favored to take control of the Congress by a 49-36 percent margin, according to an AP poll taken just last week. A double-digit margin that is growing, not shrinking.

If the American people see our Conference as being so out of touch that we retain the leadership status quo, they will register their outrage at the polls in November.

With reform that counts at Speaker Hastert's leadership table, pushing for significant change and a re-focused effort on the issues that matter most to the American people, we can not only preserve but grow our Majority.

It is critical we have leaders who are ready to hit the ground running.

That is why I am the first candidate for Whip to detail my vision for putting the problems of recent days behind us and moving boldly and confidently into the future.

The window of opportunity to unite and bring true reform to our party is now. The stakes are much more than becoming the minority party – we risk losing the **trust and faith of the American People.**

I will be a forceful and focused voice as Majority Whip. **I am asking for your vote.**

“
We raise a banner of bold colors, not pale pastels
– Ronald Reagan, 1984”

Facing our Problems Head On

We must **wipe off the mud** of the recent scandals to ensure our once clear message of lower taxes, less government, a growing economy, personal responsibility and a secure nation is heard once again across America.

It is this positive message that allowed the passing of the gavel from the out-of-touch Democrat party majority of 40 years to the Republicans in 1995. That moment remains the highlight of the 11 years that I have served in this House.

“**With resignation but with resolve I hereby end 40 years of Democratic rule of this House.**
– Dick Gephardt, Jan. 4, 1995”

Without the passing of that gavel, our nation’s budget would never have been balanced, the largest tax cuts since Reagan would never have been passed, and the safety and security of our nation would be at even greater risk.

Yet there is much more work to do. We need Reform that Counts.

“**Our sense is that Republicans don’t yet appreciate the trouble they’re in.**”
– *The House GOP’s Real Problems*
Wall Street Journal editorial, Jan. 9, 2006

Lobbying and Ethics Reform

We need to move boldly on lobbying reform.

We can and must reclaim our role as the party of personal responsibility.

“**Sunlight is the greatest disinfectant**”
– Justice Louis Brandeis, Dec. 20, 1913

I agree.

Among the reforms I support:

- Establish independent oversight to approve and audit privately funded travel by Members of Congress and staff.
- Monthly disclosure and reports to be made available online for lobbying expenditures on Members of Congress and staff.
- Intentional mis-reporting of lobbying disclosure to be classified as a federal crime.
- Senior congressional staff are completely prohibited from lobbying Congress for a minimum of one year.
- Shut the 527 loophole that allows for massive unregulated money to influence elections.

We need much greater transparency throughout the lobbying process – from meals and travel to further reform of the soft money virus that is infecting our system of self-governance.

If laws have been broken, those responsible should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

I will **listen** to Members’ concerns and be a **forceful** and **focused** voice for change at the Leadership table.

We need reform that counts to get back on offense and expand our majority.

All options must be on the table for Members to debate and decide.

New opportunities for the economy

We have to focus our agenda on the issues that matter on Main Street, not K Street.

We must, once again, be the party of less government and lower taxes.

As Chairman of the Economic Competitiveness Caucus and the Jobs Action Team, I have worked hard to unite Members on common goals to reduce the barriers to economic growth, beginning with the Hire Our Workers (HOW) plan in 2004.

Economic capital flows where it is made welcome: **We can do better in America.**

We cannot allow our great, bold Party to fade into the pale pastels of Democrat-lite. We must always keep in mind we are stewards of the People's money, not the government's.

We believe families sitting around their kitchen tables make better decisions how to spend their hard-earned money than bureaucrats in Washington.

By focusing our agenda on jobs, taxes and burdensome Washington red tape, we can once again become the party of what Ronald Reagan called the forgotten special interest group: **The Taxpayer.**

We need reform that counts to get back on offense and expand our majority.

“The HOW plan is the most structured counter-attack the House GOP has launched on the economy to date.”

– The Hill, May 19, 2004

Making America Safe and Secure

As a member of the House Appropriations Sub-committee on Defense, as well as the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I am well aware of the grave responsibility this Congress holds in providing for the national defense and reforming and improving our intelligence gathering apparatus.

Our entire way of life is under attack worldwide. Our basic values are mocked by our foreign competitors and are under real threat by terrorists.

A forceful and focused message on this important issue will help Americans reclaim the legacy given to each of us by Ronald Reagan: **Proud to be an American.**

The issue of National Defense is one of the most solid areas of public support Republicans hold nationwide.

Without a *clear change* of leadership we potentially put this critical issue advantage at risk.

“

You and I have a rendezvous with destiny. If we fail, at least let our children and our children's children say of us we justified our brief moment here. We did all that could be done.

– Ronald Reagan, October 27, 1964

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The Bottom Line

In the last 100 days our slide in the polls has accelerated.

With clear reform and a focused message we can put our Conference back on offense instead of being on constant defense.

If the next 100 days are like the last 100 days, it may be too late to save our Majority. We are only as strong as our most vulnerable members.

I pledge to **listen** to Members and work toward the issues important to their districts across the nation and the ideological spectrum.

I will work tirelessly to resolve Members' concerns on legislation earlier rather than later.

The role of Whip is not only securing 218 votes. It is also serving as a vital *liaison between vulnerable members and Leadership*.

Forcing vulnerable members to vote on legislation in the House that has no chance of passing the Senate is something I understand needs to change.

The best way to control what is in the media and what reaches the public is to have a tight leash on the floor agenda. We need to streamline the schedule. **We need to work smarter and not bundle so many important pieces of legislation** that our message gets muddled and victories go unnoticed.

Legislation that reaches the House floor should reflect the values of *who we are and why we are here*.

In 1996, I fought months of brutal union ad assaults and came out with 50.1 percent of the vote. I understand what an unsafe district feels like.

By working hard and communicating core Republican values, I won with 68 percent of the vote in 2004. Across Kansas, I tell my constituents, "If I wasn't an optimist, I wouldn't have this job."

As a Deputy Whip for 9 years, I have spoken personally with many of you and understand the struggles you have faced on many votes.

With Reform that Counts, we can do better.